



Free New York

LPNY URGES NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE TO STOP SURPRISE VISITS

by Libertarian Party of New York

The Libertarian Party of New York is urging the New York Department of Taxation and Finance to align with the Internal Revenue Service’s approach in ceasing surprise and unannounced visits.

The Internal Revenue Service recently announced a significant reduction in unannounced visits to residences and businesses, citing officer safety concerns and the potential for scammers posing as agency representatives. Effective immediately, these visits will be limited to rare circumstances, such as asset seizures or the execution of summonses and subpoenas. Out of the tens of thousands of unannounced visits conducted annually, only a few hundred fall under these specific criteria.

In this updated approach, tax-

payers will now receive letters giving them the option to schedule a meeting with an officer.

The Libertarian Party of New York is urging the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to adopt a similar policy, thereby putting an end to frivolous and often unnecessary home visits. Duane Whitmer, LPNY 1st Vice-Chair and Media Relations Chair, emphasizes, “Unannounced home visits amount to nothing more than a display of force and coercion. These visits are employed to pressure taxpayers into paying balances that may not even be owed or to intimidate them into settling erroneous fines and penalties.”

The Libertarian Party of New York dispatched a formal letter to Amanda Hiller, the acting tax commissioner and general counsel of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance,

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in addition to being shared with every state assembly member and state senator in New York.

The full text of the letter can be found on the LPNY website.

CALL TO ACTION

We have prepared a guide for New Yorkers to use to contact their legislators to take action and end the surprise visits. Go to it on our website here. We also have a form on that page where you can tell us who you reached out to and what kind of response you received.

SAVE THE DATE

Libertarian Party of New York **NOMINATING CONVENTION AND PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE**

Watkins Glen, New York • March 16-17, 2024

DETAILS/REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 2024

PLATFORM AND CREDENTIALS REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED

by Andrew M. Kolstee
LPNY Chair

At the December 4, 2023 meeting of the LPNY State Committee, the Libertarian Party of New York's representatives to the 2024 National Convention Platform and Credentials Commit-

tee were elected.

Rose Leatherman was elected the Platform Representative and Micahel Rebmann was elected the Alternate. Justin Carman was elected the Credentials Committee Representative and Chance Haywood was elected the

Alternate. Carman also served as the Credentials Representative in 2022.

All individuals elected will represent New York on the respective committees for the 2024 National Convention.

WELCOME TO THE STATE COMMITTEE: JUSTIN PELLETIER AND SAM HORDESKI

by Andrew M. Kolstee
LPNY Chair

At the December 4, 2023 meeting of the State Committee, the Libertarian Party of New York filled two vacancies: Sam Hordeski was elected to one of the vacancies in Judicial District 6 while Justin Pelletier was elected to one of the vacancies in Judicial District 7.

JUSTIN PELLETIER

Justin Pelletier is the Director of the Cyber Range and Training Center in the ESL Global Cybersecurity Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

As a component of this work, he oversees the premier worldwide offensive cybersecurity competition (Global Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition), which brings together the top ethical hackers from across the planet. As a Professor of Practice in the Department of Computing Security, Dr. Pelletier teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels, trains and leads student teams to perform security assessments for partner organizations, and helped to bring the Hacking for Defense initiative to RIT.



Justin Pelletier

He holds a PhD in Information Assurance and Security, an MBA in Entrepreneurship, and a BS in Computer Science. Prior to joining academia, Dr. Pelletier was a civil servant in the intelligence community. He is a combat veteran and currently serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

SAM HORDESKI

Sam Hordeski discovered the liberty movement in 2013 when his friends peer-pressured him into joining the College Libertarians during his sophomore year at Lafayette College.

A decade on, Sam is an industrial controls engineer by profession, and an avid aviation aficionado who spends his free time volunteering at his local cat



Sam Hordeski

shelter, listening to classic rock, and grumbling to his extremely patient wife about government overreach and the slow decay of civilized society. Sam's intellectual influences include Ayn Rand, Ludwig von Mises, and Ron Swanson.

His guiding principles in life are self-ownership, the NAP, and believing that "good" and "evil" exist on a spectrum inside every person. In the coming years he hopes to continue the fight for ballot access in New York State, resist the political duopoly, and promote the ideals of economic freedom, individual rights, and small government. Sam looks forward to participating in the LPNY State Committee and helping to advance the cause of liberty!

HELP US GET A3312 REINTRODUCED

This bill, from the 2023 legislative session, would have lowered the ballot access thresholds back to the previous standards: the number of votes needed to get ballot access to 50,000 (from 130,000 or 2%), and lower the petition signature requirement for a statewide office to 15,000 (from 45,000). Contact your representatives in the New York State Legislature and ask them to support reintroducing this bill for the 2024 legislative session!

**BECOME
UNGOVERNABLE**

The 2024

**LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

May 23 - May 27, 2024

LEARN MORE:

LNC2024.COM

A KEY ISSUE: OPPOSE NEW YORK'S GAS BAN

by Mark Braiman
LPNY Secretary

With a Democrat and a Republican also vying for the two open seats on the Cazenovia Town Council, I didn't expect to win running as a Libertarian. But that is less important to me than having the opportunity as a candidate to highlight some new issues important to the Town's future. Tops among these is New York State's ban, passed as a modification to state building codes this past April as part of the 2023 budget and effective starting January 1, 2026. It applies to both natural-gas utility hookups and propane tank installations on new housing under seven stories—almost all that might be built in Cazenovia. This new law is not merely ineffective; it is an existential threat to a sustainable future for most of rural northern and western New York, including Cazenovia. The New York Climate Action Council's December 2022 Scoping Plan pushed for an even quicker ban on p. 187: "Adopt State codes that prohibit building systems or equipment used for the combustion of fossil fuels in new construction statewide of single-family and low-rise mul-

tifamily residential buildings having three stories or less (and additions and alterations as applicable)...starting in 2025."

The Scoping Plan claims that this policy is perfectly consistent with the Climate Council's goal of an electric grid powered 100% by renewables in 2040, even during winter. Figure 1 in the Scoping Plan is a graphical representation of how they expect to accomplish this single most ambitious goal of their Plan. This Figure makes references to some support from the Independent System Operator (ISO) of the New York electric grid. But the actual details in the ISO Outlook Report makes clear that some of the assumptions and conclusions the Climate Council claims are frankly squishy.

The Climate Council wintertime statewide electric energy projection smooths over regional and time differences reported in detail by the ISO. First, the Climate Council Scoping Plan (Figure 1) projects that in 2040, 9% of Winter Energy Production statewide can come from solar energy. But the ISO Outlook, Figure 22, actually shows that for Zone

C (Central NY), even with the Climate Council's assumptions (Scenario 2), close to 50% of total 2040 electrical generation capacity will come from solar energy. However, the ISO separately states that such solar power cannot contribute to the peak 2040 need for electric power, which in upstate NY will always occur during wintertime and several hours after sunset. Furthermore, the Climate Council 2040 energy projection indicates that 53% of statewide wintertime electricity will come from wind power. But the ISO Outlook actually says that for Central NY, under 30% of total capacity will come from intermittent wind power.

In fact, it is nowhere acknowledged in the Climate Council Report that the non-intermittent wintertime electricity sources envisioned for Central NY in 2040 by the ISO are almost exclusively from the existing 2-Gigawatt nuclear plant in Oswego along with 2 Gigawatt from "Energy Storage". I am the owner of a Tesla Model 3, whose fully-charged batteries can output a sustained 4.5 kW for a 16-

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hour night before dying. In order to get 2 GW of electric power to supply the expected “storage” contribution to the Central NY wintertime electrical load, the CNY area would need to install fixed energy storage equivalent to 400,000 Tesla model 3 battery packs, or one for almost every household, current and future. Whose basements does the Climate Council envision holding these batteries?

In any plausible version of reality, over the entire lifetime of heat pumps installed on new homes in Cazenovia in 2026, they will actually produce the majority of their wintertime heat from fossil fuels.

Furthermore, in upstate New York’s grueling winters, all new homes except those with the most extravagant ground-loop heat pumps will always require a substantial backup heating source. While I was collecting candidate petition signatures in May, I spoke with some Cazenovia residents who prided themselves on having wood-stove backups for their recently-installed heat pumps. These enabled such early-adopter Cazenovia residents to shut off their natural-gas connections. I did not get back to these folks later in June, to find out whether they felt as much pride in this wood-stove solution, AFTER the air qual-

ity in Cazenovia deteriorated so badly due to Quebec’s forest fires.

Wood-stove replacements of existing natural-gas furnaces, imagined new nuclear power plants to provide “sustainable” electric power, and literal tons of expensive and dangerous lithium-ion batteries tucked into the basement of every Cazenovia home, are simply the height of “sustainable-energy” fallacy. Forcing adoption of these will drive Cazenovia’s true sustainability to near zero.

I might credit the Climate Action Council with scientific-technical skills vastly superior to mine, were it not for the very unscientific politically-driven omission from the Scoping Report, of potential carbon savings that would be likely to have a bigger impact than a new-home gas ban. Two major examples are bans on New York departures of cruise ships and private passenger jets, neither of which received even a mention in the Climate Council’s Scoping Plan.

Data published by WorldShipNY.com show nearly 500 cruise ship departures in 2023 from New York Port Authority’s three passenger cruise-ship terminals (in upper Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Cape Liberty, NJ), each carrying up to 1 million gallons of diesel or liquefied natural gas. Likewise, aviation

expert Doug Gollan (privatejet-comparisons.com) states that private jet departures from New York State currently average around 100,000 per year, each carrying up to 50,000 gallons of jet fuel. This does not even include Teterboro Airport across the Hudson in New Jersey, which has the most private jet departures of any airport in the US, almost 75,000 in 2022. The combination of cruise ship and private-jet departures from New York State thus likely produce somewhere between 3 and 10 million metric tons of CO₂ annually. This approaches or exceeds the annual CO₂ savings expected from the statewide fossil-fuel ban for new homes.

In anyone’s wildest pseudoscientific dreams, the amount of CO₂ saved per year in 2050 by prohibiting fossil fuel usage by all of Gov. Hochul’s 1-2 million envisioned new homes can barely exceed the savings that would be possible if New York just prohibited cruise ship and private passenger jet departures.

Of course, the prohibition of cruise ship and private passenger jet departures would most adversely affect the Downstate economy, whereas mandating decarbonization of new low-rise homes will most adversely affect the Upstate economy. Small wonder it is, then, that the Cli-

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mate Action Council, which is dominated even more than the Legislature itself by appointees of Downstate politicians, would opt to decarbonize new homes rather than end cruise-ship and private-jet travel.

I strongly doubt that scientists on the Climate Council were unaware of the potential carbon savings from banning cruise-ship and private-jet departures, given how widely reported have been the efforts of nations such as the Netherlands to do just this. The omission from their 2022 Scoping Plan of any mention of these possibilities was therefore not likely any kind of intellectual failure, but rather a moral and political one. In science, such a deliberate public omission is a kind of cover-up, and is far worse than the petty crime of making a questionable projection of future trends.

Who could have predicted it? Except that I did predict an outcome like this, when I offered testimony at the Legislative hearings held prior to consideration of New York's Climate and Community Protection Act, which established the New York's Climate Council. Here is part of the written commentary I provided to Sen. Rachel May and other Legislative sponsors of that Act on Feb. 21, 2019, in the Centennial Center at SUNY ESF:

“The CCPA empowers an appointed rather than elected council to make major decrees and definitions of what constitutes economic justice; and to establish a new set of complex and onerous regulations that support those definitions. The CCPA thus weakens the power of our upstate Legislators, especially those in minority parties, to influence this key political debate. The Governor will appoint 21 of the 25 members of this council, with 3 more being appointed by the downstate legislators who currently occupy Senate and Assembly leadership positions. Only 1 of the 25 initial members is slated to be appointed by an elected politician from Upstate ([the] Assembly Minority Leader...). This means that urban and downstate interests and opinions will reign with even fewer checks and balances, with even less upstate and rural influence than we have now.”

So, what would I do to help Cazenovia cope with these policies, as a Town Councilor? First, I would try to get the Council to pass a resolution formally petitioning our local Assemblyman, State Senator, and Governor to revise the statute, in order to allow localities to opt out of these gas bans. Such a local opt-out provision was rumored to have been considered by the Legislature this past April, but never included. And if that change passed, I would vote to opt out.

Second, in the absence of a formal opt-out provision, I would urge the Town Council to formally adopt a policy to make enforcement of this gas ban the lowest Codes Enforcement priority. I would even go so far as to recommend implementing this (and saving the town money) by eliminating our position of Codes Enforcement Officer, and leaving this duty up to an elected Town Councilor as is done in many other New York Towns--- I would certainly volunteer for this—so that this particular part of the State Building Code could receive its proper (minimal) level of enforcement.

Finally, and most urgently, I would suggest that the Town Council adopt a formal policy to encourage developers and homeowners to use the next 2 years to quickly install (or retrofit) a normal 30 years' worth of gas-equipped homes in Cazenovia. This drive will have a huge economic payoff, based on my own decades-long experience choosing whether to get gas or go all-electric for my own homes. Among other options for my first house in Charlottesville VA in 1991, the builder of that large development (Mill Creek South) gave every buyer a choice between a heat pump in the base price, or a combination of a gas furnace and water heater with

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central A/C, at an added cost of \$2000 for the gas hookup. After many hours of research, I chose the gas option (including a gas-powered clothes dryer). History shows that I made the right decision for my personal finances. Not only did I save many times the initial cost of the gas installation over the ten years I owned the home, the value of gas-equipped homes in that subdivision went up way faster than those with heat pumps. As a consequence I was able to make a \$35,000 profit on my original \$92,000 investment, enough for me to put down the necessary down payment on a house with a little lakefront when I moved to Cazenovia in 2001.

By creating an artificial government-mandated shortage of modern gas-equipped homes in Upstate NY, our State Legislature is actually creating an enormous investment opportunity over the next two years. I hope Cazenovia residents with the capital, or credit rating, to install gas before the ban goes into effect in 2026 will strongly consider doing so. Such homes will likely rise rapidly in value after 2026, benefiting the individual investor. It will also benefit the Town by improving the desirability of our overall housing stock.

Please note that I am absolutely not a climate-change denier. I

am making these recommendations in part because I think they are the best ways for our community and our state can handle approaching climate changes. And I am skeptical that even those on the NY Climate Council believe that decarbonization is truly as urgent at their Scoping Report makes it out to be. Otherwise, why would they totally omit any mention in their 2022 Scoping Report of a need to reduce private-jet or cruise-ship departures?

I am a frequent early adopter of new energy technologies, and even a sometime inventor of them. I am willing to use them—even advocate for others to adopt—when it makes sense. I was the only homeowner in that Mill Creek South development in Charlottesville to take the time to locate a supplier (in another state) who could construct and deliver properly-sized custom-made low-emissivity windows for my entire house, at an added cost of \$1000 over the normal windows and skylight—another wise investment, as it turned out.

I was one of the first owners of a hybrid (Prius) in Central NY in December 2001; and also one of the earliest owners of a Tesla Model 3 in December 2018. I can testify that these vehicles have made extraordinarily good environmental and economic sense for someone like me, who has a

35-mile round-trip daily commute to Syracuse University, and who has the ability and money to maintain them and drive them safely, summer and winter, for car lifetimes approaching 300,000 miles. But I have always cautioned others—long-distance drivers especially, and those who are accident prone—that such vehicles are not always cost-effective or environmentally friendly. Rather than mandating that others do as I have done, I am strongly in favor of publishing good unbiased information, charging pollutant disposal fees as accurately as possible to cover long-term environmental costs, and letting consumers choose.

I am likewise strongly opposed to mandates for all-electric homes. I prefer rather to educate and encourage, recognizing that from Cazenovia to Buffalo, other investments such as improved insulation, window design, and ventilation, along with rooftop solar collection, are likely to produce better lifetime carbon-to-dollar payoffs than heat pumps.

But for the next two years, the best carbon-to-dollar payoff in Cazenovia will almost certainly come from investing in new homes with heat pumps as well as natural-gas hookups for backup wintertime heating. This gentle recommendation (not mandate) should be official Town and State policy.



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UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

by **Andrew Kolstee**
LPNY Chair

Here is this month's update on some of the things going on behind the scenes at the Libertarian Party of New York.

State Committee

The next State Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024. We have vacancies remaining on the committee that can be filled at this meeting.

2024 Nominating Convention

The Libertarian Party of New York will hold a nominating convention to choose our placeholder candidates for President and Vice President on the weekend of March 16-17, 2024 in Watkins Glen. More details will follow.

Since the Libertarian National Convention will be held at the end of the petitioning period, and so when petitioning begins, it is unknown who the nominee will be, and so a placeholder candidate would need to be selected in order to get a candidate on the ballot. If the Libertarian Party of

New York has a successful petitioning drive, the placeholder candidate is able to withdraw in favor of the candidate selected at the Libertarian National Convention.

We will also choose our U.S. Senate candidate. We are looking for bids for the location, in which the Executive Committee is to finalize sometime in December.

2024 National Convention

The 2024 Libertarian National Convention is scheduled for May 23-27, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Delegate numbers are locked in, and New York will have 41 delegate spots.

If you would like to be a delegate, a form has been sent out for interested individuals to sign up. We will be choosing our delegates in early 2024. Emails will be sent to remind everyone about the form and to apply to be a delegate.

Ballot Access Legislation

Rich Purtell, LPNY 2nd Vice-Chair and Legislative Affairs Director, is leading efforts to

get ballot access legislation introduced that would reduce the ballot access thresholds back to the old standards. Contact Rich Purtell at rpurtell@lpny.org if you would like to help with this effort.

Website and Database

Work continues on the website and database, but most of the work has been focused on the database, in which there are a few remaining tasks to complete the migration.

2024 Campaign

The Petitioning Committee has met and is exploring ideas for a potential statewide petitioning drive in 2024. If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out.

Platform Committee

The Platform Committee, chaired by Dan Castello, is currently working on revamping the state platform. When the work is completed, a series of proposals will be sent to the State Committee for consideration to amend the platform.

COUNTY AFFILIATE NEWS

ALBANY

CONTACT:

Justin Carman, County Liasion
jcarman@lpny.org

ALLEGANY

CONTACT:

Jame VanDewalker,
**Acting County Chair/
County Liasion**
jvandewalker@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

fb.com/AlleganyCountyLP

CHAUTAUQUA

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Jan. 4, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Lakeview Hotel & Resturant
Mayville, NY and Zoom

CONTACT:

Len Morlock, Chair
lmorlock@lpny.org
Andrew Kolstee, Secretary
akolstee@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

www.chautauquaLP.org
fb.com/chautauquaLP

CHEMUNG

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Jan. 9, 2024 at 6 PM
at Ill Eagle Taphouse
(2nd Tuesdays)

CHEMUNG, cont.

TRIVIA NIGHT:

Wed., Jan. 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM
at Ill Eagle Taphouse
(4th Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Craig Colwell, Chair
ccolwell@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpchemung.org

CHENANGO

CONTACT:

Tom Quiter, County Liasion
tquiter@lpny.org

COLUMBIA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Jan. 17, 2024 @ 7 PM
Claverack Free Library
and Google Meet
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Scott Hoskins, Chair
scottdhoskins@gmail.com

CLINTON

CONTACT:

Zachary Remian,
County Liaison
zremian@lpny.org
(518) 310-6664

DUTCHESS

NEXT MEETING:

Held 3rd Saturdays
Time/Location Varies

CONTACT:

Catrina Rocco, Chair
DCLPChair@outlook.com

ERIE

NEXT MEETING:

Held Monthly via Zoom

CONTACT:

Duane Whitmer, Chair
chairman@eriecountyp.org

KINGS (BROOKLYN)

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Jan. 16, 2024 at 3 PM
@ Fourth Avenue Pub
76 4th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217
(third Tuesdays)

CONTACT:

Matthew Morgan, Chair
matthewisaiahmorgan@gmail.com

MADISON

CONTACT:

Mark Braiman, Chair
mbraiman@lpny.org

MONROE

Contact the Monroe County Libertarian Party for meeting link. We also have monthly social meetings that you don't want to miss. There is also Google Group for announcements.

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Jan. 4, 2024 @ 7 PM
(first Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Steve Becker, Chair
drsbecker@aol.com

LEARN MORE:

monroecountylp.org

NASSAU

NEXT MEETING:

Tues., Jan. 11, 2024 at 7 PM
@ Landmark Diner
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Jon Gunther,
Executive Committee Chair
jonguntherlibertarian@gmail.com
Blay Tarnoff,
County Committee Chair
LPNY@eblay.com

NEW YORK (MANHATTAN)

CONTACT:

Chance Haywood, Chair
chaywood@lpny.org

ONEIDA

CONTACT:

Keith Redhead, Chair
kredhead@lpny.org

ONONDAGA

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Jan. 17, 2024 at 6 PM
@ Rail Line
530 S. Clinton St., Syracuse
(third Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Rachel Becker, Chair
reb4128@rit.edu

ORANGE

CONTACT:

Juan Ayala, Chair
livefree@juanayala.com

PUTNAM

NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., Jan. 11, 2024 at 7 PM
at McCarthy's
374 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512
(2nd Thursdays)

CONTACT:

Bill O'Donnell, Chair
billod10704@gmail.com

QUEENS

CONTACT:

John Clifton, Chair
mrjclifton@yahoo.com

RENSSELAER

Since October 2022, the Rensselaer County Libertarian Party has been collecting food items and monetary donations to give monthly to StreetSoldiers Rensselaer.

NEXT MEETING:

Wed., Jan. 3, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Alexis Diner, North Greenbush
(first Wednesdays)

CONTACT:

Jennifer O'Connor,
Acting County Chair
joconnor@lpny.org

RICHMOND (STATEN ISLAND)

CONTACT:

Susan Overeem Cummings,
Chair
susanovereem@gmail.com

SARATOGA

CONTACT:

Naz Garabedian, Chair
nazareth.garabedian
@lawsonproducts.com

SCHOHARIE

CONTACT:

Lora Newell, Chair
lnewell@lpny.org

SUFFOLK

CONTACT:

George Ostrowski, Chair
gstostrowskijr@msn.com

TIOGA

CONTACT:

Sara Price, Chair

sprice@lpny.org

Rich Purtell, Vice-Chair

rpurtell@lpny.org

WASHINGTON

CONTACT:

Brian Wells,

Acting County Chair/

County Liason

blwells45@gmail.com

WESTCHESTER

CONTACT:

Rajib Maitra

Acting County Chair/

County Liaison

rajib.maitra1@gmail.com

ULSTER

NEXT MEETING:

Mon., Jan. 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Hickory BBQ, Kingston, NY

(second Mondays)

CONTACT:

Sam Kniffen, Acting Chair

samkniffen01@gmail.com

WAYNE

CONTACT:

Jim Dayton, Chair

jdayton@lpny.org

LEARN MORE:

lpwaynecounty.org

YATES

CONTACT:

Jeff Bradley, Chair

jbradley@lpny.org

Don't see your county listed?

**We are looking for Libertarians
to organize new County Affiliates!**

Contact us for more details!

affiliates@lpny.org

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Unisex Zip Hoodie

\$34.99



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LPNY Logo Store
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\$19.99



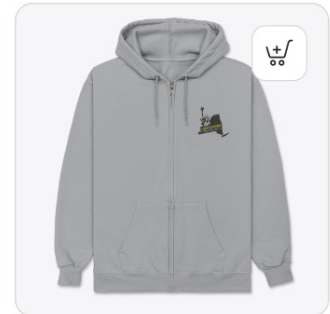
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Sweatshirt

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LPNY New Logo Store
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<p>info@lpny.org</p>	<p>www.LPNY.org</p>	<p>866-336-3120</p>